SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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editorial

"cross the bridge" only?

THERE has never been such a rash of activity by Mr Nixon and his advisers as in the current presidential campaign. At once he has to grapple with many problems the most prominent of which is the Viet Nam war and the Paris peace talks.

After resorting to more than one diplomatic manoeuvre, he has even very confidently declared that his re-election will come to pass without his having to go stumping across the US and that Viet Nam will not be a campaign issue. Despite his exertions to substantiate his overoptimistic expectations, so far the Viet Nam question has remained a vexed one and an iron ball tied to his feet.

He has travelled far and wide, trying to sell his 8 points as an expression of his "good will" and "generosity," in a bid to hoodwink public opinion and pressure his opponent into acceptance of his terms. But the fiercely militant Viet Nam, so jealous of its independence and freedom and peace, has not been impressed at all.

He has sent Porter back to the bargaining table, dispatched Kissinger to Paris, Saigon, Tokyo and many other places, to make the public at home and abroad believe that his administration is doing its utmost to settle the conflict by a series of secret talks and momentous contacts.

The White House number one strategist's covert and overt antics have been accompanied with a concert of the Defence and State Secretaries' utterances regarding a possible arrangement in Viet Nam just before or after the presidential polls. Amidst this intensifying bustle spurred by the nearing election day, Mr Nixon has denied a breakthrough at the Paris Conference but has dropped a hint that he has been bending his energies to such an objective by means of "secret meetings with the other side." Remarkably enough, Nguyen Van Thieu himself has recently chimed in with this psywar ploy by lashing out at the suggested government of national concord and clamouring his resolve to fight communism to the end, while intimating that he is not an "inflexible man."

What spectacular pranks and capers! But no one has any doubt about what the incumbent US President is after keeping his armchair in the Oval Room for another four years. In the race to the White House, he wants to be the nimbler by jettisoning the dead weight of the war. But how can he do it?

His rival's position regarding the tragedy has been made amply clear and definite: unconditional cessation of US bombings in Indochina, complete withdrawal of US ground troops from there within 90 days, termination without any pre-condition of all military aid to the corrupt Thieu regime.

Mr Nixon has naturally criticized in most harsh terms McGovern's programme and stuck to his own 8 points, which boil down, as the public has pointed out, to a surrender of the winning Vietnamese. His intentions are obvious: in the context of a forced pull-out, pursue his aggression and continue US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. By what means? By holding on to Thieu, stubbornly refusing the proposed tri-partite government of national concord, trying to liquidate the Provisional Revolutionary Government by dissolving in the US-installed regime to be imposed on the South Vietnamese and to serve as US willing war instrument. Accordingly, the extermination war in South Viet Nam has been pushed up to an unparalleled degree of fury, the aggression against Laos and Cambodia stepped up and the air and naval war against North Viet Nam intensified. The objective of his 8 points is nothing short of a solution advantageous to the US to be forced on the adversary through means of a successful "Vietnamization." His "peace plan" and frantic war escalations are not likely to win him many votes. He has boasted of having travelled "thousands of miles on the path of negotiation," while in reality the Paris talks have not moved an inch forward, and he has no "secret" or open plan to halt US aggression. This explains why under pressure of time, he has to give full vent to his psywar panoply, why he has sent his highest ranking adviser to secret encounters with the opposite side, why his band has been rehashing the trite theme of "the dying-out war," of the ending US involvement and of a settlement in Viet Nam a little while prior or posterior to the election day.

However, his most ingenious propaganda moves have been put in the shade by the roaring flames of the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, while the White House ballyhoo has been drowned by the booming of guns and the screeching of jets. Mr Nixon's ulterior motive behind his diplomatic capers and secret negotiations is only too apparent, as already revealed above, whereas he has no sincere desire to talk or to bring the war to an end. The object he is seeking with such obstinacy is another tenure by deceiving once more the US electorate.

For all his mastery of the psywar technique, it remains to be seen whether he will be able to make the American voters forget his electoral pledge of 1968 and what he said on October 9, the same year against the Johnson administration: "Those who have had a chance for four years and could not produce peace should not be given another chance." As far as the South Vietnamese are concerned, one thing at least is certain: if Mr Nixon does not want to bury the hatchet, they will fight to a finish. The PRG September 11, 1972 statement has opened a door to genuine peace but if he does not want meaningful negotiations, the Vietnamese, the Americans and the world peoples will get him to talk seriously. Another certainty is that the Vietnamese are prepared and have enough stamina to carry on their resistance until final victory about which they have not a shred of doubt.

SOUTH VIET NAM

What is in store for Nixon if he is bent on prolonging the war

in the cities

• A strike was staged on September 19 by all the workers at the Vinh Hue paper-mill in Thu Duc for the 13th-onth pay, sickness benefits and adequate working-clothes. A spokesman of theirs said unless their bosses met their demands the workers would further close their ranks and carry on the struggle until satisfaction of their legitimate claims.

• The Thieu clique launched on September 25 a campaign to strengthen "solidarity" between the army and people and for the "reconstruction" of An Loc, the aim of which is to squeeze the people and fill gaping budget gaps. Great sums of money have been extorted from business circles, mass organizations, political and religious communities. Teachers have been asked to "contribute" 100 piastres a month, and primary schoolchildren will have to go without breakfast for ten months to save a lump sum of 100 piastres for the fund. So far in Saigon alone, some 20 million piastres have been extorted from the 4,000 teachers and 18,000 pupils of primary schools in this way.

Large sections of the Saigon population, especially teachers and students, are strongly critical of this open robbery, denouncing it as a move of the US-Saigon regime to feed the war.

• The Association of Journalists in Saigon has put out a communiqué pointing out that Thieu's new "press law" is meant not only to gag the free press but also to cause unemployment and misery to great numbers of pressmen and other people. It criticized the curfew as rendering impossible the "Autumn Tree" — a charity event planned to raise a relief fund for the families of jobless journalists during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

• At the September 25 session of the Saigon Senate, 21 Senators, despite disruptive attempts of Thieu's hirelings, voted a resolution against Thieu's "illegal actions" and "unpopular policies." These legislators also made public a statement declaring invalid all decrees Thieu had ever promulgated or would issue as from September 27, date of his getting full powers. The statement laid stress on the total lack of legality of these decrees, and demanded an immediate end to all violations of democratic institutions.

(Continued)

in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

7.— THE NUMBER ONE MAN AND HIS PROFESSION OF FAITH

WHEN, in late 1970, a number of parliamentarians met in the Dien Hong Conference Hall which stood among the bank buildings near the Chuong Duong docks, and kicked up a row about corruption among the bigwigs in the government, the name of Major-general Do Cao Tri was the subject of vehement debate.

In the coffee houses along Tu Do (*Freedom*) Boulevard and the posh refreshment stalls along the Saigon-Bien Hoa expressway, the name of Do Cao Tri, President Thieu's right hand man, became a byword of plunder and embezzlement.

At the Joint General Staff Headquarters, junior officers doing clerical work amidst the scream of jets from the Tan Son Nhut airfield agreed that the major-general was indeed the number one embezzler and bribe-taker of the Saigon army. Behind him stood three other generals in this order: Dang Van Quang, Lu Lan and Dam Van Quang.

Who was Do Cao Tri? His name was a household word among the paratroopers. He joined the French colonial army at the age of 17, was sent to France for training and made his first parachute jump at the age of 18, whereupon he was promoted second lieutenant. It was in 1946. Later Tri liked to reminisce about his French superiors at the time, Colonels Gilles, Ducourneau, Konal and others, and about his participation in operations of the French expeditionary corps along the Sino-Vietnamese border and in the North-west, in the years 1950-1952. He never forgot to boast that he had been awarded the Legion d'Honneur in 1951. "I was only 23," he would proudly stress, "yes sir, only 23." He never tired of repeating to his subordinates: "I made my first jump before General Nguyen Chanh Thi, and General Cao Van Vien, the the Chief-of-Staff, did theirs."

In 1969, in the course of a ceremony held by the Paratroops Division, Tri was dubbed King of Paratroopers. But he was better known under the less flattering sobriquet of King of Embezzlers, Gamblers and Whore-hoppers.

How did he go about his business? In 1970, when he was commander of the Third Corps Area and Military Governor of Saigon, he was appointed commander of the Saigon forces invading Cambodia. When his infantry and paratroop unit entered the rubber area of Chup and Mimot (20,000 hectares each) Tri lost no time appointing a special Task Force for requisitioning all property of the French plantation-owners and Cambodian local population. While the rest of his forces were being crushed under the artillery barrages and decimated by the ambushes of the Liberation forces, Tri's buccaneers efficiently fulfilled their assignment.

Soon, on the highway leading from Chup to the frontier and on to Saigon, long convoys of American-made military trucks with *QC* (*Quan Canh*: Military Police) escorts started rolling. Under the tarpaulins they carried 10-12 fat oxen or buffaloes apiece. About 4,000 head of cattle thus passed the frontier in one week. But what particularly enraged the French plantation-owners was the looting of their rubber stocks. Nearly a thousand tons of raw rubber were thus taken away by 200 truck convoys, this operation being given priority even over the evacuation of Tri's wounded soldiers. The bales bore inscriptions in French "Plantation Chup," or "Plantation Mimot."

After the warehouses were nearly emptied, aircraft were called in to drop incendiary and napalm bombs. Called to account by angry Cambodian senior officers, Tri answered with a shrug of the shoulders: "The latex is so inflammable! A few Viet Cong shells were enough to set it ablaze. As for the cattle, well, they just stampeded away when the battle started and we couldn't do a thing about it, could we?"

Cao Tri truly deserves the name his parents gave him, which means The Wily One. A captain of the 18th Infantry Division later supplied some details about the operation, in the course of a carousal: "Everything went like clockwork. The convoys were welcomed at the frontier by no less a figure than Brigadier Lam Quang Tho, commander of the 18th ID. Under his troops' protection, the goods were taken to points plotted beforehand on the map, from which they were later directed to secret warehouses or confidential middlemen. The security men couldn't lift a finger for the escort officers were all their senior in rank, majors or lieutenant-colonels, and moreover covered by mission orders signed either by General Do Cao Tri himself or his chief-of-staff Brigadier An. Such mission orders, as you can guess, are worth millions of piastres apiece."

At the peak of the Cambodian operation, Chinese merchants with a great flair for profitable deals went by night to the open-air markets in Go Dau Ha on the frontier and brought back truckloads of the plunder seized by General Tri's troops: woollen and silk fabrics, medicines, tobacco, watches, radio sets, bicycles, motorbikes, not to mention the innumerable household items taken by force from the population, down to the poorest strata. On General Tri's orders, electric generators were brought in to provide these thriving centres of business with all favourable conditions for carrying on their activities at night. And so, while the soldiers of the Third Paratroop Brigade and the 258th Marine Brigade were dying by the thousand at the foot of rubber trees, hundreds of thousands of US dollars, in greenbacks as well as in red (military-issue) dollars, kept streaming into the coffers of their commanding general.

But that was not all. There were even bigger windfalls. For instance two suitcases stuffed with bundles of bank-notes — US dollars, Saigon piastres, Cambodian *riels*, Lao *kips* — taken from the safes of the French rubber plantations and the pockets of the local population, and totalling, according to estimates by intelligence officers of the Third Corps Area, over four thousand million Saigon piastres. It was a great scandal and Saigon parliamentarians kicked up a shindy about it. But barely three days later, General Tri sharply upbraided them: "It's an unforgivable insult to generals in the field, and a slander aimed at staining the national prestige." The rebuke was accompanied by a challenge to Senator Pham Nam Sach to come to his headquarters in Bien Hoa to thrash out the matter by discussion and, if need be, by a pistol duel! Needless to say, the Senator quickly drew in his horns, for he was not such a fool as to risk his life by going to the tiger's den. It was public knowledge that Tri enjoyed "President" Thieu's complete confidence and protection, and his truculence naturally knew no bounds. Indeed, the mere sight of him would frighten the ordinary citizen out of his wits: a burly figure with fierce features, jumbo-sized dark glasses, a black beret tipped at a sharp angle, and enormous pipe pugnaciously sticking out of a corner of his mouth from which came an unending flow of foul language, one hand waving a silver-tipped ebony swagger-stick, the other ready to whip out a 45-caliber Colt pistol at the least displeasure.

Tri's career had been meteoric. His climb from ordinary paratrooper in the French colonial army to major-general in Thieu's army had been all smooth sailing. Made commander of the most important of the four Corps Areas of the Thieu regime, then commander-in-chief of the 50,000 Saigon troops invading Cambodia, he had good reasons to believe that his star would keep rising. Financially speaking he had made quite a few lucky strikes. In 1955 he had pocketed heaps of money in the operations ordered by Ngo Dinh Diem, his then master, against the Binh Xuyen. In late 1963, he was serving in the First Corps Area when Diem and his brother Nhu were liquidated at CIA instigation. Tri received orders from his new masters to arrest Diem's brother Ngo Dinh Can, the satrap of Central Trung Bo, whom he used to respectfully address as "Elder Uncle." Among the latter's confiscated property was a box of diamonds, the most precious item in the immense fortune of the "Tiger of Trung Bo." A Tri aide who was present when the box was seized recalls that his eyes goggled out of his head when Tri emptied it to count his booty: no less than 242 diamonds in all, of which 30 were of the first water and worth tens of thousands of dollars apiece.

From 1965 onwards, as the war expanded, Tri's fortune also knew a fantastic rise. One of his younger brothers was appointed commander of the Bien Hoa sector, the family's native region. Another was given a lucrative job in the forestry administration while a third worked in the army's security forces, a good position from which to "protect" the business deals of the Do Cao clan. The Saigon press talked a great deal about the Do Cao "warlords" who, under the wings of General Tri, planned to become financial magnates as well.

In March 1972 General Tri's career came to an abrupt end when his helicopter, in which had also taken place his closest American advisers, was shot down by Tay Ninh guerillas soon after taking off from the Trang Lon airstrip.

It was reported that Thieu wept bitterly when accompanying Tri's remains to the military cemetery at Bien Hoa. The dollar-scented relationship between the two was well-known: a sizable part of the Thieu family's income came from Tri's contribution, through the channel of the "sisterly" rapport between Sau, Thieu's wife, and Kim Chi, Tri's third spouse, who incidentally was the daughter of Nguyen Huu Tri, the governor of Tonkin in French times.

Soon before his death, Tri had uttered what could be considered the profession of faith of the *Khaki Party* and the Saigon generals' guideline for action. The French journalist Jean Larteguy, who interviewed Tri in Tay Ninh town, recounts that after reminiscing about his past services to the French and his former superiors in the French colonial army — Colonels Gilles and Vanuxem among others — Tri talked about his philosophy of life. After drawing a long puff at the French cigarette Larteguy had offered him (the Frenchman gave him four more at his request to satisfy his nostalgic yearn for things French) Tri confided: "In war there are usually two kinds of people: Those who make it, and those who get rich from it. I do both. Yes sir, I make war and at the same time take fat profits from it." He burst out laughing and added sententiously: "Life is so short one should make the most of it!"

Four days later, Tay Ninh guerillas put an end to his life.

(To be continued)

THANH NAM

Ten policies vis-à-vis South Viet Nam liberated areas

genuine freedom and democracy

THE communiqué on the ten-point policy vis-à vis the liberated areas clearly stipulates : " The revolutionary power guarantees democratic liberties to all citizens, equality between men and women ; liberates patriots condemned by the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration and detained in jails and re-education centers... ; dismantles all camps of concentration under any form set up by the US and Thieu regime ; respects freedom of belief and worship, protects pagodas, shrines, churches ; disbands all reactionary parties serving the US imperialists and the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration. "

The revolutionary power also stipulates in its ten points of discipline that cadres, functionaries and militants working in newly-liberated areas have the duty to protect the lives, properties and exercise of honest professions to all people, ensure all democratic liberties and the respect of the people's customs and beliefs...

What is said above abundantly proves that revolutionary power is a people's power and a truly democratic one, and its policies fully respond to the deepest aspirations of our compatriots who have been longing for genuine freedom and equality.

Our compatriots in newly liberated areas and in areas still under US-puppet control have a thorough understanding of the rule of the aggressors and traitors. The aggressive war unleashed by the US imperialists grossly violates all fundamental rights of the South Vietnamese. Their " pacification " programs, population resettlements, creation of " free-fire zones, " toxic chemical sprayings, " maximum increase of war refugees, " etc. have caused innumerable mournings and deaths to the South Vietnamese people. Tens of thousands of civilians have been murdered, millions driven out of their native place and compelled to live a life of utter misery, detained in concentration camps labelled " strategic hamlets. " In the 300,000-population province of Quang Tri, an oppressive apparatus of no less than 70,000 agents was set up to keep the people under its brutal grips from 1969 to the day of liberation. They drew a list of people to be shot dead in each hamlet and village. After Quang Tri was liberated, it was subjected to bombings and poundings by hundreds of B.52s and tactical aircraft and by vessels of the 7th Fleet. Thousands of tons of bombs were dropped every day from the sky on the provincial capital and its outskirts, tens of thousands of shells were fired to exterminate the people, raze to the ground dwelling houses, pagodas, shrines...

A monstrous creature of the US invaders, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration is composed of fascists and butchers. They cracked down on " opposition MPs, " ordered their police to assault the " Lower House, " staged thousands of sweeps to arrest and terrorize the people right in downtown Saigon. Hundreds of thousands of patriots were illegally incarcerated in Chi Hoa, Thu Duc jails or exiled into " tiger cages " in the Poulo Condor devil island. Patriots and people standing for peace, neutrality and the formation of a national concord government were considered as outlaws by Nguyen Van Thieu Thieu's " freedom of belief " manifested itself in bloody mopping-up operations directed against Buddhist believers in Hue, Da Nang, Saigon, in the use of bombs and M.16 guns against cathedrals. A West German journalist after a visit to Saigon remarked that Thieu's law was to silence everybody, and to reserve to the South Vietnamese people only one freedom — that of becoming servants of the US aggressors.

In their direst straits, with all hopes in the success of " Vietnamization " gone, the US Thieu are frantically resorting to new gangster-like, fascist methods : nine security measures, proclamation of martial law, round the clock search of private domiciles, sending of all " suspected " persons into exile, prohibition of strikes, hartals, demonstration, control and limitation of movements, requisition of anyone's property, etc, The Saigon " National Assembly, " besieged and menaced by Thieu's police thugs, was forced to give him " full powers. " All this was clearly intended to prolong the death pangs of the US imperialists and Saigon puppet regime.

The fine and radiant regime of the liberated areas not only responds to the aspirations of millions of compatriots now freed from the US Thieu yoke, but also constitutes a strong stimulus to people still living in enemy-controlled territories.

The free life in ancestors' land, though still confronted with many difficulties created by the war, is encouraging our compatriots in newly-liberated areas to exert all efforts to build and consolidate a new social order, and to continually enhance their vigilance to defend the free zones, thus contributing to the whole people's endeavours to totally defeat the US aggressors, and topple the Nguyen Van Thieu gang of traitors.

TAM DUONG

President Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the SVN NFL CC visits a class in the liberated zone

US extermination bombardments of Quang Tri province condemned

THE Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued a statement on the concentrated bombardments by US aircraft and warships and the use of toxic chemicals against Quang Tri provincial capital.
The statement reads in full as follows :

" Since late June 1972, the US imperialists have concentrated its jet warplanes, including B.52 strategic bombers, and warships to carry out repeated and brutal raids against Quang Tri province.

Of late, from September 7 to 11, 1972, everyday the US imperialists ordered some 100 sorties of tactical planes, 50 missions of B.52s and many warships to concentrate their attacks against Quang Tri provincial capital and its surroundings including Tri Buu, Thach Han, Long Hung, La Vang and Tich Tuong areas.

In the past five days, they dropped nearly 10,000 tons of bombs and in just two days, September 8 and 9, fired over 30,000 cannon shells on the said areas. More savage still, in these two days US aircraft and warships repeatedly showered bombs and unleashed artillery shells containing toxic chemicals on this area.

US bombs and shells killed many civilians, poisoned many others and destroyed many dwelling houses, orchards and crop-fields of the local people.

This is an extremely serious criminal war act of the bellicose and blood thirsty Nixon clique, a brutal act brazenly trampling upon all international law and practice and flouting human morality and conscience.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam energetically condemns these criminal acts of war of the Nixon administration before public opinion at home and in the world.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam demands that the US government end at once its genocidal war acts, cease the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, completely give up its " Vietnamization of the war " policy, withdraw all the US troops from South Viet Nam, discontinue all US air and naval attacks on both zones of Viet Nam, stop the mining and blockade of North Viet Nam, terminate all US military commitment in South Viet Nam, cease backing the Saigon puppet administration and let the South Vietnamese people set up their three-segment government of national concord as expounded in the September 11, 1972 statement of the RSVN PRG.

The RSVN PRG calls upon the governments of various countries, political and social organizations and personalities, religionists, peace-and justice-loving scientists and the people in the world, in the United States included, to take firm and timely actions to stop barbarous acts of the Nixon administration.

The US imperialists must bear full responsibility for the consequences arising from their genocidal war acts. These criminal acts have further proved the failure of the " Vietnamization of the war " strategy, exposed the brutality and powerlessness of the US air and naval forces in their massive involvement to save the puppet army now being bogged down in Quang Tri province.

The people and armed forces of South Viet Nam are determined to push ahead their present offensives and uprisings, to dash forward, deal more stunning blows at the US-puppets and bring the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression for national salvation, till complete victory. "

"VIETNAMIZATION" IN A DESPERATE PLIGHT

THE strategic offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are entering their 7th month. In the past 6 months, the aggregate punch of the people's war has hit hard at "Vietnamization."

With the biggest game ever played in all his tenure Nixon is going for broke. He and his team are now doing the firemen's work. However his options and trumpcards are running short. Stopgap measures of all descriptions, including those ruled out by his predecessors, have been used. Massive fielding of US air and sea power in South Viet Nam, reconstitution and re-equipment of the client army, resumption of the air and naval war against North Viet Nam, mining and blockade of harbours, interdiction of our supply lines, all has proved of poor impact. Battlefield realities are giving a clear illustration of this.

WITH his new strategy, the US President has "re-Americanized" the war. To-date, the US tactical air force in South Viet Nam has nearly reached a level unknown in the former "limited war," and the planes used are of more sophisticated models. Meanwhile the US strategic airforce deployed has doubled the strength ceiling of that strategy, is 5 times bigger than at the beginning of this year and amounts to 46% (by early July 1972) of its total build-up. The US naval strength has been increased 3.6 times over the past period. This deployment of US might the largest since the end of World War Two, has been obviously aimed at staving off the imminent collapse of "Vietnamization". To this effect in the last 6 months, over 400,000 tons of bombs, not including hundreds of thousands of tons of other munitions, have been dumped on both South and North Viet Nam in an extensive extermination campaign. Nevertheless, the "almighty" US air and sea power, the material foundation of the "Nixon doctrine," hurled into the "decisive military measures" opted for by Nixon and announced in his May 8 speech, far from checking the ever growing aggressiveness of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, has instead courted new setbacks and fresh disasters, revealing in an unmistakable way its ineffectiveness. Militarily, the resilience and stamina of the Vietnamese combatants has caused a great surprise to the West, as remarked *Rampart* magazine of last August. The armed forces and people of Quang Tri have faced the US air force and navy with incredible courage and success. On this battlefield, the US has concentrated the most devastating air force and navy in the history of war. In this sector alone, in the last 5 months, US aircraft have expanded over 100,000 tons of bombs in 19,000-odd sorties without preventing the Saigon elite army units from getting battered for 82 days running on a stretch of highway not longer than 10 miles. The Highway 13 front in the US-Saigon defence line North of Saigon, commented *AP*, is a mirror reflecting the dismal powerlessness of the US air force since this national route of special strategic importance remains blocked, 150 days and nights and tens of thousands of tons of bombs and shells later.

Meanwhile, "pacification" has been floundering too in face of the raging "miraculous war" in the Mekong Delta and the Central coastal plains. The offensives of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people had not ceased by July 1, 1972 as prophesied by the White House's brain trusts in their eulogy of Nixon's "tough step." On the contrary, these attacks, observed many Western newsmen, have become much bigger than they were thought to be at the outset, and are very likely to extend still further. The rapid crumbling of the US-Saigon defence structures in the Que Son, Tien Phuoc, Ba To and Mo Duc fronts, on the Central coast in late August and during September is added proof of the helplessness of US air and sea power.

There is no denying that the latter has intensified the war to an unprecedented degree of brutality. It may possibly succeed, to some extent, in delaying the US-Saigon failure and collapse, but definitely it can never snatch victory from defeat and blunt the strategic onsets of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people. Meanwhile, US air and navy toll has further risen. In South Viet Nam alone, in the past 6 months, the US has lost close to 2,000 aircraft of different types, or the whole US aviation production in the same period of time.

The impotence of this new US "Expeditionary Corps" has further brought into relief the US waning strength. Military reverses entail political setbacks for Nixon. A British paper has observed that Nixon's broader use of air power has made things go from bad to worse and brought no help to Saigon. On the contrary it has produced adverse effects. Wanton bombing only does harm to the US. The current offensive (of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people) prove that bombing is incapable of realising US goals.

It has also thrown a stronger light on the patriots' revolutionary military concept that it is the man that counts, and that ground fighting decides the outcome of a war.

With emergency measures based on US air power, Nixon and Co have been trying to give a shot into the arms of the Saigon army, backbone of "Vietnamization." This mainstay, however, has seriously degenerated and has been maimed beyond remedy. In a 5-month-odd period, over 28,000 enemy troops, more than half of them regulars, have been knocked out or disbanded. Many elite Saigon divisions posted in pivotal sectors have been so badly mauled that they had to be withdrawn from combat for re-constitution. The "territorial forces," security forces and civil guards have been in a state of deliquescence. Anti-war actions and the desertion rate have alarmingly been on the upswing. US-Saigon pressing problems are troop replenishment and re-fitting by drafting more men. However, the vigorous expansion of the offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in the country-side plus the persistent political actions in cities and towns and in US-Saigon controlled areas which keep skrinking with every passing day, has made it harder to recruit fresh man-power. In spite of crude impressing methods, of conscription of even criminals and disciplined armymen, which has compounded the Saigon army's heterogenousness, replacement is still far from adequate. It is not uncommon to see Saigon army units 40 or 50% under strength. As a result, the disparity between the purpose and possibility of making the Saigon army stand on its own feet keeps widening sharply. After more than 3 strenuous years of "Vietnamization," the strength of the client army has been boosted up to only 13 full divisions. Yet in the first 3 months of the current wave of PLAF onslaughts, 6 of them have been depleted and others severely crippled, while the artillery and armour forces have lost respectively 33% and 40% of their men.

In the present predicament, the restoration of the Saigon army will be a real headache, let alone the fact that the replacement of the command and specialized skill in units of technical forces, is a rather complicated and lengthy job, despite US abundant financial and material resources.

THE sting of an army is conditioned in the first place by its fighting quality, will and spirit. What the Saigon army is lacking is "just a bit of guts" as acknowledged by US advisers. And this, nothing could infuse into it. Moreover, it has shown new signs of deterioration. A regiment has recently taken anti-war action in a body. A task force unit has surrendered. Most members of the security and "people's self-defence" forces have left their ranks or crossed over to the revolution's side. In many areas, the resistance of the Saigon troops has fast declined as in Loc Ninh, Dakto, Tan Canh, Cam Doi, Que Son, Tien Phuoc, Ba To, Mo Duc and Highway 13. Those are distress signals for "Vietnamization." Has the US army more efficacious remedy? Nowadays the answer to the "Vietnamization" formula in the military field has become transparent on the South Viet Nam battlefield: US air power + Saigon army = failure.

By rekindling the atrocious air and naval war against North Viet Nam, with such new international outlawry as the mining and blockade of her ports, Mr Nixon and his confederates hope to stave off their bankruptcy in South Viet Nam. In their eyes, the air force and navy which have an edge over other services in term of modern war technology, are a very important strategic force of a great extermination effect and vast destructive power, a major threat to the adversary and undisputed advantage of US imperialists over less economically and technically developed countries. The recourse to the air war against North Viet Nam, they expect, would help them cut off the South Viet Nam revolution from the outside world, block the flow of supplies from the great rear base to the great front-line, and shake the determination to fight of the Vietnamese. Facts, however, have upset all the calculations of the advocates of "decisive military measures." This US strategy had already come to a flop, in theory and in practice, and in the political, military and moral fields in the 4 years under Johnson. However vicious and brutal it may be under Nixon, its results cannot be other than only more crimes against the North Vietnamese. Many towns and cities have been obliterated from the map, many population centres and dyke systems have come under constant attack without producing any tangible military and political effect on North Viet Nam.

Many top American brasshats in Washington and Saigon have had to admit a basic failure: inability to stop the shipment of international aid to the Vietnamese and the stream of goods from the North to the South. Naturally, it has been in no way able to hold in check the violent offensives of the Liberation army and people of South Viet Nam. Former US Attorney-General Ramsey Clark, after a visit to North Viet Nam, has pointed out that "We cannot bomb people into submission. Each bomb has further increased their determination."

In this atrocious war, North Viet Nam has stood a major trial. It has been able to preserve and increase its economic and defence potentials. It keeps sending ample and timely help to the frontline, while meting out due punishment to US air and sea pirates. Nearly 500 US war planes have been blasted out of North Viet Nam skies, over 60 US warships sunk or damaged in North Viet Nam territorial waters. The rate of air losses remains as high as in Johnson's time. The list of American pilots killed or captured in action has further lengthened.

To renew the war of destruction against the North in the hope of turning the tide is sheer illusion indeed. The critical US-Saigon strategic position on the South Viet Nam battlefield has given the measure of the ineffectiveness and failure of the forces and measures of "Vietnamization." The strategic posture of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people is very strong because it is built on steady and firm foundations covering all fields, military, political, material and moral, from the first line to the rear. That is the hub of the problem.

By escalating the war to a most serious degree to save collapsing "Vietnamization," Nixon has elected to do the worst thing in all his presidential term. This option of his has laid bare the obstinate and bellicose nature of US imperialism. The longer Nixon and Co persist in their efforts to secure a position of strength and seek a military decision, the more setbacks they will invite upon themselves. The South Viet Nam armed forces and people are fully capable of foiling "Vietnamization" in the context of the re-Americanized war. There is no panacea to this unsound strategy born of an incorrect military line.

THANH HONG

US-Saigon fire base 42 in Kontum destroyed by the PLAF

Marching to the front through the impressive jungled mountains of the Western Highlands

Unit 22 swings into devastating action

IN the dark night, the liberation combatants marched through the forest in a driving rain which blanketed the whole jungle and rendered its tracks very slippery. In the sky, B.52 bombers were roaring frenziedly, and showering bombs at random. Defying hardships the members of Unit 22 of the People's Liberation Armed Forces climbed up hills, crossed rivers and bomb-craters with tons of steel on their shoulders, and showed no sign of tiredness. In their eyes was blazing a deep hatred for the enemy. They pledged themselves to hit at, at the 46th tactical group of the Saigon army who played havoc in their native place. They were resolved to give the mercenary troops a taste of the skill of the sharp-shooters of the heroic Highway 13 liberation forces, famous for their "Smash artillery, demolish warehouses, bring down planes and wreck armored cars" watchword.

Since the combatants of Unit 22 were assigned the mission to grapple with the 46th tactical group of the Saigon 25th division, they were very glad of a chance to translate their resolve into deeds and "express their gratitude to Uncle Ho with dramatic feats."

The whole unit made hectic preparations. Through many sleepless nights, the commanding officers, their heads bending on field maps, with red and blue pencils in hand, were busy making marks, studying, measuring and then discussing one battleground after another, target after target, and position after position of the enemy. Scouting and observation groups sent out on previous nights were taking turns in reporting to the commanding staff.

When everything was ship shape, the leading detachment set off.

At 10.00 a.m, Hong and Khanh Commanders of the groups entrusted with the task of striking at the enemy tactical group at Xom Ruong road junction, southern Cay Cay and the Chon Thanh military sub-sector, reported to the command post: "We've moved into position. We are waiting for the go order!" From the other end of the line, the commander of the unit voiced his gratification at the high morale of his men. He reminded them to check once more their gun sites, camouflage and ammo cases, and to watch closely every enemy move.

At 12.15 p.m, group commander Hong ordered: "Fire!". Two artillery shells hissed through the air and fell on gun sites of the 46th tactical group northeast of Xom Ruong road junction, on Highway 13. Political instructor Nen braving adverse bombing and strafing firmly held on to his observation post and carried on his spotting job. After a third shelling the observation post reported: "Target completely wiped out!" From CP, one could see billowing white clouds of smoke rising over target B. Mixed with thundering bomb and shell explosions were screams of terrified Saigon troops. Many of them were cut down while others threw away their weapons and fled hilter-skelter to Cay Cay base.

Right in the first barrage, gunners of the Group 2 scored a direct hit at an ammo depot. Over 5,000 artillery rounds were let off. Three 105mm guns and 5 gun tractors were knocked out of action, a nearly fuel dump set ablaze.

Hurrahs resounded at the position of Group 2, who again received a ring from the CP: "Target C, fire angle Y, direction X, Ready... Fire!"

Group 2 battery again rumbled. Clusters of red-hot shells were ceaselessly lobbed on gun positions, commanding post, signal centre of the 46th tactical group. The whole enemy position was engulfed in a sea of fire. Explosions unceasingly rocked the battlefield. Two enemy gun batteries were silenced, and the gunners were knocked out at their side. The signal centre was completely blotted out.

News of this feat quickly spread to positions of friendly groups, stimulating them in their emulation drive to wipe out enemy troops.

Shortly after, from the position of Group 1 under the command of Khanh and Be, a deluge of fire roured on the southern areas of Cay Cay base, erasing a series of fortifications and underground shelters. Three guns were blown to pieces, many army trucks smashed by the road-sides. One storage containing 3,000 ammo rounds and one fuel dump were burnt down. Enemy dead littered all over the battlefield. The survivors defying their superiors' orders ran for their life leaving behind weapons and vehicles.

The enemy base south of Cay Cay had been levelled. Meanwhile, the garrisoning troops in Chon Thanh military sub-sector came under pressure from Group 6 commanded by Le. The enemy also took heavy casualties on this battleground.

Only after over one hour of fighting, gunners of Group 2 of the Binh Long liberation artillery with some 40 shells did short work of twelve adverse 150mm and 155mm guns. Crewmen of one gun battery and one artillery platoon were totally wiped out, two ammo depots containing nearly 10,000 artillery rounds blown up, two fuel dumps burnt down, 5 artillery tractors shattered and one signal centre razed to the ground.

As a result confusion and panic prevailed among the Saigon 46th tactical group.

On the other hand friendly liberation units at the Highway 13 front were put on their mettle, and more devastating blows were in store for the adversary.

DIEN AN

New US atrocity in DRVN

Over 200 schools bombed

SINCE April 16 this year, US airplanes have struck at more than 200 general education schools, some over and again. The toll has been hundreds of teachers and pupils killed or wounded, and thousands of classrooms and many research structures, laboratories and teaching aids destroyed.

In Haiphong, B.52's have devastated the Thai Phien secondary school, the Ly Tu Trong elementary school, the Tran Van On primary school and many kindergartens inside and outside of the city.

In Nghe An, in a little over 3 months, as many as 62 schools came under US air raids, with as casualties 12 teachers and 181 pupils.

Particularly, in the last few days when term has just begun, new US atrocities have been committed against education establishments in various provincial capitals and even in remote areas.

At Cuong Thinh village (Yen Bai), the primary school of an out of the way hilly area was bombed on the morning of September 6 when teachers and pupils' parents were giving it final touches for the new school year's day. Twelve-year-old Xuan, a 3rd former, was killed by a bomb fragment, other pupils wounded, and Hoa, a 5th former, lost 3 fingers to a splinter.

At Yen Son (Tuyen Quang), on the morning of September 7 when teachers and pupils of the Tran Phu school were digging shelters and making necessary preparations for the resumption of learning, many US aircraft streaked in and unloaded strings of demolition, blast and anti-personnel bombs. Many classrooms and the teachers' living quarters were demolished, and many teachers and pupils killed or wounded. School mistress Quang and her first child aged 13 months were among the fatalities. Xuan, a 6th former, died instantly as many bomb splinters hit his back and lungs. Many others were maimed.

In Kien An town, the Tran Thanh Ngo primary school and the Middle school of Architecture, and many city quarters have been reduced to rubble.

On September 20, teachers and pupils of the primary-elementary school of Am Thuong village (Vinh Phu) was just ending the re-opening ceremony when US planes roared in and dropped many kinds of bombs, killing many of them.

On September 26, the primary school in Ky Son district town (Hoa Binh) was savagely raided again.

Nearly 20 vocational middle-schools have been targets to US bombings. Many schools like the Thanh Hoa Medical School, the Hanoi Medical College, the Thai Binh Faculty of Medicine and the Hanoi Polytechnic have come under repeated assaults, with rockets, blockbusters and anti-personnel bombs. Most serious was the recent extermination bombing of the Building College. In about 10 minutes, US planes dropped nearly 200 bombs, killing 60 people including 7 children, 17 women and many teachers. The medical station and the child-care institution were completely erased. The whole staff of the medical station and a 2-month-old baby were burned alive and 75 houses were obliterated.

On September 25, the Viet Nam Education Workers' Union issued a statement denouncing Nixon's schemes to hit at Viet Nam education and exterminate its younger generations by attacking its establishments and massacring its teachers, students and pupils. It called on the World Federation of Teachers' Unions, various national Education Workers' Unions, all educationists and peace and justice lovers around the world, including American educationists and progressives to condemn with force US atrocities and take prompt action to stop them.

For its part, the DRVN Ministry of Education has, on behalf of over 200,000 teachers and 7 million pupils, called on all peace, justice and humanity-loving people in the world to come out resolutely against such US genocidal bombings.

US extermination raid against Nam Dinh city

The DRVN in brief

o 370 more agricultural production teams have been honoured as socialist labour teams of the following 17 cities and provinces: Thai Binh, Nam Ha, Hai Hung, Ha Tay, Ha Bac, Vinh Phu, Ninh Binh, Hanoi, Haiphong, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Binh, Vinh Linh, Bac Thai, Nghia Lo, Lao Cai and Yen Bai.

o All schools and colleges throughout North Viet Nam have begun the new academic year. Despite the war, schools have been built in evacuation places to provide enough accommodation for school-age children.

It is confidently recalled that the number of schools and pupils greatly increased in the four years of the 1st US air war (from 9,295 general schools with 2,670,000 pupils in 1965 to 11,362 schools with 4,100,000 pupils in 1969).

o The DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee met on September 13 and 14, 1972 under the chairmanship of Truong Chinh. The gathering heard report on and discussed the situation and tasks of the welfare and education of young pioneers and children.

The Committee also ratified the founding of the Legal Committee to be placed under the Government Council's direct authority.

o The Hanoi, Viet Bac and Vinh Teachers' Colleges have graduated 340 high school teachers.

The Hanoi Teachers' College No. 2 has also trained 43 teachers in agricultural technique, 30 others in industrial technique. All of them will be assigned to high schools.

o On behalf of all the teachers and students, workers and cadres of the Hanoi Building College, its director sent on September 20 a letter thanking the Cuban Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos for having its drive of denunciation of the Nixon's genocidal bombing of the College. The letter reaffirmed the College teachers, students, workers and cadres' resolve to successfully implement their tasks under whatever circumstances.

o Following a series of political discussions entitled "The heroic youth record exploits and win victory over the US," more than 200,000 Labour Youth Union members and other young people in Nghe An have enthusiastically emulated one another in their work with the "Three Ready" spirit. Over 22,000 Union members and youths in Dien Chau and Nam Dan districts and Vinh provincial town have volunteered for the army. In realizing the "Whenever the enemy destroy roads, we immediately repair them" slogan, tens of thousands of youths have been busy on the roads, filling up tens of thousands bombs craters to keep traffic going.

o The Ministry of Transport and Communications has just convened a conference of leading officials of central and provincial transport services and a number of related branches of activity to review transport and communications work in the 1972 aid-agriculture campaign, and discuss the tasks and concrete measures for 1973.

o After a year of industrious labour, land reclaimers at the Youth Economic Settlement have turned the wilderness of Vinh Phu province (North Viet Nam) into a luxuriant banana forest. Over 100,000 banana trees have begun to bear fruit. In the next few years, thousands more of hectares of land will be put under banana. A fruit-processing plant will come into existence in the future.

o For young people of various ethnic groups in the Tay Bac (North West) Autonomous Region, the day they set off for the army is really a festive day. All villages, co-operatives and tribes are suppliers of man-power. It is the watchword of the 700,000 inhabitants in the Region to provide the army with more fighting men and to supply the State with more paddy than required. They try to produce and save more for more food supplies can be sent to the battlefront.

o The Cao Bang provincial administrative committee has held a ceremony to receive the rotatory banner presented by President Ton Duc Thang in recognition of the province's achievements in developing rural transport and communications. In this respect, Cao Bang has topped all upland provinces. The "All country people engage in transport and communications" movement has gained momentum right since the start and the local inhabitants have obtained one success after another. For this, it has been awarded a Labour Order Second Class by the National Assembly and Government. In 1971 and early 1972, it was given a strong impetus in the province where people have taken an active part in repairing old routes, building new ones and turning out more means of transport.

The US Society and Nixon

THE US Federal Bureau of Statisticsl gives the US total population as 204,765,700 in 1970. The Black Americans make up 11% of it while nearly one million other coloured Americans and several million Chicanos are also found in it. Two million Porto-Ricans live in the US as country cousins in the full sense of the word. The racial issue is a glaring but not the only or the main trouble of the American society. As a matter of fact, in contradiction with the apologists of "people's capitalism," who go to the length of negating the existence of classes in the US, the US society is deeply split. There is an affluent America, rolling in riches and a poor America whose destitution is truly unbelievable. Officially there are more than 30 million North Americans vegetating under the poverty line and 15 others very close to it. Nearly 10 million children of the US are without means and on relief.

When higher education fees run to 4,000 dollars a year or one half of a middle bracket family's income and when the bill of a day in hospital reaches 70 to 100 dollars, it is clear that the benefits of science and health care is available only for a very small minority.

Capitalism in the US like elsewhere has prove unable to put the achievements of the scientific-technical revolution at the disposal of the masses. In the specific conditions of the US society the remarkable advances of that revolution have resulted in the exacerbation of social antagonisms and creation of a new category of jobless intellectuals: more than 60,000 unemployed researchers, engineers and technicians swells the ranks of over 5 million fully idle and 2.5 million partly idle manual workers.

Of such a profoundly segmented society, Johnson wanted to make a "great society," in the teeth of the aggression against Viet Nam. Goering had spoken of the inevitable choice between butter and guns. The Texan President had promised both but failed to deliver the goods.

It was easy for the 1968 Republican Convention to place the blame on the Democrats for the Viet Nam war and internal difficulties of the US society. Its platform pledged the cessation of the killing, settlement of main problems like crime, education, health, full employment, human development, the Indians (Red Skins), the poor etc. In his elaborate speeches, Nixon, putting on the airs of a philosopher and jurist, prattled about the rehabilitation of moral values and reinforcement of law and order.

The new Republican prophet was returned by a very flimsy majority: 31,770,237 votes or 43.4 % against 31,270,535 or 42.72% for Humphrey. Once installed in the White House, he formed a typically "Republican" Cabinet, i.e. without Blacks, without women and without any Democrat at the beginning.

WHAT has become of the US society after 4 years under his administration?

On the one hand, the Viet Nam war far from ending has been intensified and extended to all Indochina, with "Vietnamization" coupled with a "Khmerization" plan, and a stepped up Lao war. More than 500,000 GI's have been brought home but more men and means of US air force and navy have been thrown into the fray. Since April 1972, the "Vietnamized" war has been re-Americanized with a new escalation against North Viet Nam, with heavier US casualties and supplementary credits to the tune of many billion dollars. For the war and the arms race, the Pentagon has been asking for record appropriations of more than 80 billion for the 1972-1973 fiscal year.

Two many dollars for guns and not enough for butter. The funds earmarked for education, health, social welfare and other civilian expenditures for 1969-1972 have turned out to be inadequate for the realization of the smallest reform envisaged.

The plight of the poor is worse than under Johnson. One tenth of the Black children die very young. 650,000 Indians continue to live in misery in reserves and their life expectancy is only 43 years (35 years for the Blacks). Farm workers, white and coloured alike, are paid low wages and lodged in huts without running water and electricity. They are virtual serfs, for their bosses can not only fire them but also deny them the right to quit as long as they have not paid their debts.

Recession and inflation go hand in hand, boosting up the number of the jobless. Out of the 2 million Viet veterans, there are 300,000 unemployed.

Crime has been on the upgrade, with nightly average of 60 hold-ups and 100 burglaries. Washington, the federal capital, is turned into a desert at nightfall. Juvenile delinquency has been soaring. One out of four delinquents today in the US is under 15. There has been much talk about the typical case of three Franklin collegians soaking their teacher with petrol and setting fire to him.

The root cause lies in the cult of violence, disseminated by the Westerns, cinema and television. An immediate cause is Viet Nam war from which young men come back disillusioned, in disequilibrium, drug-addicted and ready to do anything to pander to their instincts let loose. One of them caught red-handed made this illuminating statement: In Viet Nam the government made me a killer and now it forces me to steal.

The aggression against Viet Nam and Indochina has not only harmed US economy and finance and the dollar but also undermined its moral values and compounded the illness of its society.

Legality in the US instead of being reinforced has been increasingly flouted. The Republican administration openly infringes upon Congressional powers and ruthlessly cracks down on the anti-war movement. War dissenters are dealt with harshly with clubs, tear gas and even machine-gun fire. The Kent University killing is a case in point.

What W. Fulbright says about Johnson in his book "The Arrogance of Power" can perfectly fit the incumbent US President. The famous Viet Nam war critic asserts that the process of growing deshumanization in the US is a no less disastrous consequence of the Viet Nam tragedy. It is the consequence of the right of cruelty and inhumanity, it is the cold-blooded assassination of women and children, the destruction of their environment. In dehumanizing the adversary, one dehumanizes oneself. There is no guarantee, he concludes, against a revival of McCarthyism.

Fulbright's book dates back to 1967. At present, any impartial observer will swear that McCarthyism has come back under the features of Nixonism. The North American state has become under the Republican administration a police state which applies to US masses the methods experimented in South Viet Nam.

During her visit to the DRVN, Jane Fonda cried not only because of the Vietnamese people's sufferings but also because of the US people's moral degradation.

Early this year another artiste, Carol Feraci of Canadian nationality triggered off an incident during a dinner at the White House. She lashed out at the bombings which hit human being, animals and vegetation. On Sundays, you go to church and pray to Christ, she told Mr Nixon, and if Christ were present among us to night, you would not dare continue dropping bombs.

He eventually did all the same and this is an indication that he neither believes in God nor in the principles of ethics and law and little values his electoral pledges.

IN the *International Herald Tribune* (August 29, 1972), Anthony Lewis referred to the encounter of the two Americas at Miami Beach on the occasion of the Republican Convention. The rich America was represented by well-dressed ladies and gentlemen putting up at plush hotels at 50 dollars a day for a room. The poor America was symbolized by five young people in long black coats and white masks — the image of death in Viet Nam, parading in the desert street, pungent with tear gas, in front of helmeted police and chanting: "God bless America." The macabre parody was striking and called for a few words of comment. The five demonstrators were not a minority but spoke for the mass of war protesters. The poor America is not only the traditional America of Abraham Lincoln but also that of millions of men and women who grow more and more alive to their rights and obligations.

Will they all go to the polls and who will they vote for on November 7 next? For McGovern or for Benjamin Spock, candidate of the new US People's Party. No one can tell. Anyhow, Nixon is no longer cocksure of his re-election, despite the mighty backing of the rich America. It is difficult indeed to dupe the electorate for a second term.

XUAN KHANH

Nixon-Agnew's favourite game

World opinion says:

A Sensible and Logical Proposal

AS made clear in the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front September 16, 1972 statement, many governments and peace-loving people throughout the world have enthusiastically welcomed and supported the statement of September 11, 1972 of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on ending the US war of aggression and restoring peace in Viet Nam. Of late, public opinion in all continents has continued to give its warm approval to the sound position, full of good will for peace of the people of South Viet Nam.

In this broad concensus of favourable opinion, there are the voices of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Alliance Committee of the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces, the leaders of the State, front, political parties, national organisations and mass organisations in the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the German Democratic Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Mongolia, Guinea, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Irak, India, Sweden, Syria, Finland..., the Foreign Ministry of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the Mauritanian Foreign Minister, the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the Afro-Asian-Latin American Peoples' Solidarity Organization, and the progressive press. All are at one in holding that the September 11 offer represents an "important initiative," "a peace program for Viet Nam," "a new manifestation and a new proof of the good will and desire of the Vietnamese patriots for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam question."

"This is a very reasonable and fair proposal," President Nicolai Podgorny of the USSR said. "The Soviet Union fully supports it and will continue supporting and assisting the Vietnamese people in their confrontation of US aggression on the three fronts till complete victory."

The Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers stated: "This is a sensible and constructive plan for a solution to the Viet Nam issue." The Mauritanian Foreign Minister described it as "a reasonable, realistic and very generous proposal. We fully support it." Naim Haddal, member of the leading committee of the Iraqi Baath Party, regarded it as "the only correct solution to restore peace in Viet Nam." The Alliance Committee of the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces said: "The demands raised in this statement are clearly justified. They fully conform to the realities and are very reasonable and fair. They are consistent with the interests of the people in South Viet Nam and of the progressive people throughout the world, including the Americans."

World opinion has been particularly appreciative of the proposal for the formation of a government of national concord in South Viet Nam.

"By clarifying in the most concrete manner," the World Peace Council commented, "the proposal for the formation of a government of national concord in South Viet Nam which is itself a concretization of the 7-point proposal made earlier, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the DRVN Government have once again shown their good will and their unshakable determination to ensure a lasting peace based on the respect for the right to self-determination of all nations."

The Japanese *Akahata* ran on September 12 an editorial, saying: "What the people of South Viet Nam are claiming is respect for their imprescriptible right of self-determination. They demand that the US end its aggression and intervention perpetrated through the maintenance of the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, and leave the South Viet Nam people to shape the future of South Viet Nam. The proposal for a provisional government of national concord is the only sincere, reasonable and fair attitude in the settlement of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam. At the same time, it is a relevant answer to the mendacious propaganda of Nixon who has used the pretext of his opposition to the "imposition of a Communist government" for expanding his aggression.

In this connection, Soviet Foreign Minister A.A. Gromyko made clear at the 27th session of the United Nations Assembly his objection to the US policy aimed at "liquidating the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces and at maintaining the Saigon administration as the only legal administration in South Viet Nam."

"The Vietnamese people are resisting aggression," he added, "they are fighting for just goals, for their right to be master of their own country. They cannot allow anyone to dictate to them a political and social system of his own choice, to impose on them his strawmen, representatives of foreign interests in the eyes of the Vietnamese people." Refering to the fundamental demands made in the September 11 statement of the PRG, Minister Gromyko said: "To solve the internal affairs of South Viet Nam, one must take into consideration the realities of the situation: two regimes, two armies and other political forces concurrently exist in this country. Equal rights and renouncement of all attempts to seize complete control is the basis of the solution to this problem. To this end, it is necessary to form in South Viet Nam a provisional government of national concord composed of three parties, as a caretaker administration during the period of transition to be entrusted with the organisation of general elections abiding by the genuine principles of freedom and democracy. All those who respect the rights of the people, who have not lost the capacity to assess the situation objectively, cannot but recognize these proposals as well founded, reasonable and logical and a reflection of the good will of the Vietnamese people. They cannot but reject categorically the allegation that the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam wants to force a 'communist regime' on South Viet Nam."

Meanwhile, world opinion has also strongly denounced the Nixon administration's hostile propaganda against the two basic claims raised in this statement and its refusal to negotiate seriously at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam while frantically intensifying its aggression, perpetrating new heinous crimes against the Vietnamese people. "Nixon is engaged in a brazen provocation against the whole peace-loving mankind," remarked the Bulgarian weekly *Pogled* on September 18, 1972.

An end-the-war demonstration in the United States

in brief * in brief

o USA

For 3 days in a row, from September 26 to 28, Nixon ran into many thousand-strong antiwar demonstrations when he went on a fund-raising tour in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

He was protested by demonstrators, who carried slogans condemning his reactionary policies, waved RSVN flags, and clamoured for an end to the criminal aggression he was pursuing in Viet Nam.

Prior to that, on September 21, hundreds of inhabitants of Columbus demonstrated against the Nixon administration's war policy by protesting Vice-President Agnew's arrival in Ohio for the Republican convention. 14 dissentors were arrested by police.

At the Senate on September 25, Senator Adlai E. Stevenson pointed out: "The Thieu regime is corrupt, and tyrannical... It rules by force because it cannot by popularity. Yet the Nixon administration insists upon propping up the Thieu dictatorship." Chairman J.W. Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said that there is no doubt about the gradual elimination of all aspects of democracy in South Viet Nam. The same day, the Senate passed an amendment to the foreign aid bill, urging that the United States cease supporting efforts by the Thieu administration to discourage legitimate opposition by curbing the right to vote, freedom of the press, or other individual liberties.

o Canada

On September 23, antiwar Canadians dogged the footsteps of Prime Minister Trudeau, asking him to explain the Canadian government's for the dirty war prosecuted by the US in Viet Nam.

o Mexico

An exhibition on the US genocide in Viet Nam was opened to the public in Mexico city from September 20 to 29. Side activities included a press conference and film shows to denounce the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and the other parts of Indochina.

o Uruguay

The Communist Youth Union on September 24 adopted a resolution voicing full support for the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression. It also collected 50,000 *pesos* for Viet Nam.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION